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NOVA SCOTIA REGIONAL GROUP UPDATE

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From the Chair

Bill Greenlaw, Chair NS Regional Group

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the many new members who have joined IPAC NS Regional Group in the last year.

In particular, I would like to welcome the younger members – including students of Public Administration, and the members of IPAC's New Professionals. We look forward to their input in both IPAC itself and in the public sector throughout their careers.

The NS Regional Group of IPAC has 150 members – coming from all three levels of government, the academic world, university administration, school boards and consulting firms.

I have had the opportunity to meet many of you through the professional development sessions we've held this fall. They included presentations by Dr. Peter Aucoin of Dalhousie on his IPAC award winning Foundations paper; Jim Stanley and Jim Ellsworth on the Sustainable Communities Initiative, which we highlight in this newsletter; and NS Public Service Commissioner Rick Nurse on the Human Resources Strategy for the Nova Scotia government.

We are planning a minimum of two sessions this spring, including a

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Sustainable Communities Initiatives Honoured

A joint federal provincial initiative on sustainable development received Silver in the 2004 IPAC Awards for Innovative Management.

The Nova Scotia Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) is a unique partnership comprised of more than 40 federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations organizations dedicated to supporting communities through a collaborative approach that integrates social, cultural, economic and environmental policies and programs. The initiative provides an opportunity for governments to work together and with the communities they serve.

The goal of the initiative, which began in 1999, is to have communities and governments work together toward long term sustainability through:

- Designing and implementing horizontal coordination within government
- Using a collaborative approach that integrates social, cultural, economic and environmental

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daylong workshop co-sponsored with IPAC's national office in Halifax on *Building Commitment in the Public Sector*.

The sessions are an opportunity to hear about best practices and innovative ideas, and to network with your colleagues. We know that not all of you are able to attend our professional development sessions regularly, so we hope the launch of this newsletter will allow you to keep in touch with what's happening locally.

We invite you to share the newsletter and we would welcome your comments and suggestions. Please direct those to Norma MacIsaac, Vice Chair Membership at macisanj@gov.ns.ca.

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policies and programs

- Building community partnerships using new models

SCI's success comes from intergovernmental connects at every level including: senior federal government representatives in NS and provincial Deputy Ministers, federal and provincial champions, a coordinating committee, field teams and an SCI office.

Two of their key projects have focused on the watersheds of the Bras d'Or Lakes and the Fundy/Annapolis Basis, with field teams with reps from federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations communities.

The Nova Scotia entry was one of three honoured in 2004 when the award's theme was *Pulling Against Gravity: Horizontal Collaboration*.

The theme of the 2005 Innovation Award is *Public Service Without Borders*. The Award is sponsored by IBM Canada, KPMG and the Public Service Commission of Canada.

Application information for this year's awards, which close March 31, 2005, are posted on the IPAC national website at www.ipac.ca/awards/innovation/criteria.

IPAC NS EXECUTIVE 04-05

CHAIR – BILL GREENLAW

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AUDITOR – STEPHEN FEIST

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MPA 2ND YEAR STUDENT REP – DAN CARLSON

MPA 1ST YEAR STUDENT REP – RODGER GREGG

MEMBERS AT LARGE – RICK NURSE, SADIE SASSINE, JONATHAN SIMMS

NEW PROFESSIONALS REPS - VIJAY BHASHYAKARLA AND MARY BETH GILLIS

NS IPAC and Indonesia

For the past 10 years, the Nova Scotia Regional Group of IPAC has been coordinating three major projects with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) from Indonesia. In Nova Scotia, IPAC members at Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations (SNSMR), Halifax Regional Water Commission and Dalhousie University Continuing Education Department (Henson College) have been working together on: Accountability and Transparency in Local Government; Capacity Building for New Councillors; and Local Governmental Enterprise Management.

Accountability and Transparency

Municipal Services of SNSMR and IPAC have been working together with Indonesia's MoHA to increase municipal governance capacity in Indonesia. Current projects include

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the development of training programs for municipal administrators to provide good governance and accountability, and training manuals similar to those provided by SNSMR (www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/manuals/). MoHA have also expressed great interest in the online programs for municipal elected officials and administrators provided by the Dalhousie University Continuing Education Department (www.dal.ca/~henson/)

In February 2004, a delegation from Indonesia was in Halifax for a three-day workshop which included a series of seminars from the provincial government, municipalities and Dalhousie University to review local government in Nova Scotia and Canada.

Capacity Building for New Councillors

In 2004, Indonesia held both federal, provincial and municipal elections. On the municipal level 15,000 councillors were elected. MoHA is responsible for training programs for new councillors.

In November 2004, a delegation came to Halifax to participate in the SNSMR, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM – www.unsm.ca/) and Association of Municipal Administrators (www.amans.ca) two-day orientation for newly elected councillors in Nova Scotia (www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/muns/orientation/default.asp)

In addition, the delegation had the opportunity to view how local municipalities provide their own orientation for new councilors in the towns of Berwick and Wolfville and in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Local Government Enterprises Management

In Indonesia, MoHA is in the process of developing a series of Local Government Enterprises (LGE) to deal with a series of projects from social housing to water supply companies. MoHA has been looking to the expertise at the Halifax Regional Water Commission (www.hrsc.ns.ca) to develop a

possible pilot project in the Banten Province of Indonesia. In particular, MoHA is interested in a model that demonstrates the appropriate: separation of regulation, policy making and operations; improved management of LGE water companies; improved transparency and accountability for decision making; improved supply/quality of water; improved pricing and greater cost recovery.

In February 2004, as part of the delegation from MoHA to Halifax, there was a workshop on LGE management and water utility structure put on by the Halifax Regional Water Commission and the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to representatives of the ministry and selected LGE in Indonesia. Future plans include work with MoHA in Banten Province.

Exchanges

It would appear that one of the best kept secrets in Canada is that we are international leaders in governance studies and programs, which is why so many countries have come to Canada and Nova Scotia. Take a look at the IPAC website to see the types of projects being coordinated by IPAC (www.ipac.ca/international/index/html)

A delegation from Nova Scotia participated in the MoHA international workshop on local government enterprise in Jakarta in March 2003.

More Nova Scotia – MoHA exchanges are planned in 2005 in these three areas with delegations coming from Indonesia to Nova Scotia. In particular, the Indonesians are interested in: the councilor orientation programs; the on-line training programs of Henson College for municipal administrators and councilors; development of professional associations for federal, provincial and municipal administrators; other local government enterprises and the development of their own training manuals and kits.

If you are interested in further details, contact Stephen Feist (feistse@gov.ns.ca) or Blaine Rooney (BlaineR@hrwc.ns.ca)

Awards of Excellence Recipients



Seated front row, left to right: Honourable Michael Baker, Minister of Justice, Province of Nova Scotia; The Honourable Myra Freeman, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia; His Honour, Larry Freeman; and Bill Greenlaw, Chair, IPAC Nova Scotia Regional Group.

Standing second row, left to right: Gordon Gillis, recipient of Award of Excellence in Public Administration ; David Melvin, Award of Merit for Academic Excellence ; Wynne Potter, recipient of Award of Excellence in Public Administration; Judith Sullivan-Corney, recipient of Award of Merit; Herman Bakvis, Director School of Public Administration, Dalhousie University; Mary Belliveau, Past Chair and Awards Coordinator, IPAC Nova Scotia Regional Group; and Kattie Calleja, accepting the Award of Merit for Academic Excellence on behalf of Andrea Howard.

Each year, the Nova Scotia Regional Group of IPAC honours Nova Scotians who have displayed excellence in public administration or in their academic studies.

Last September, five people were presented with their awards at Government House by her Honour Lt. Gov. Myra Freeman, honorary patron for the awards.

The 2004 Awards of Excellence winners are: Gordon Gillis and Wynne Potter, Awards of Excellence in Public Administration; Judith Sullivan-Corney, Award of Merit in Public Administration; and Andrea Howard and David Melvin, Awards of Merit for Academic Excellence.

It is rare that two Awards of Excellence are awarded in one year, but the nominating committee felt both Gordon Gillis and Wynne Potter were equally deserving.

Gordon Gillis joined the Nova Scotia Civil Service in 1978 as a lawyer in the Attorney General's department. After a 25-year career that saw him serve as Deputy Minister for seven departments, he retired in 2003 as Deputy Minister to the Premier, and Deputy Minister responsible for Treasury and Policy Board and Communications Nova Scotia. Throughout his career Mr. Gillis bridged the gap between the bureaucracy and elected officials by creating a respectful, professional atmosphere.

Wynne Potter also began his public service career with the Nova Scotia Government joining the Department of Energy in 1970. He held various positions in that department before moving on to the federal government where he worked with Energy, Mines and Resources; Regional Industrial Expansion and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency from where he retired as VP in 2000. Mr. Potter supported finding new ways for the federal government to partner with provincial and municipal levels of government as well as the community, and his leadership as Chair and Managing Partner in the Canada/Nova Scotia Business Centre was recognized with the Head of the Public Service Award for “Excellence in Service Delivery”.

The 2004 Award of Merit went to Judith Sullivan-Corney, currently Chief Executive Officer for Nova Scotia’s Office of Aboriginal Affairs. A former Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Public Service Commissioner with the province of NS, Ms. Sullivan-Corney has been an exceptionally strong supporter of IPAC, recognizing the value of IPAC in the development of leadership skills within the provincial government. She has served several years on the Executive Board of the Nova Scotia Regional Group of IPAC.

The Awards of Merit for Academic Excellence went to Andrea Howard who achieved highest marks in the May 2004 Masters in Public Administration (MPA) graduating class and to David Melvin who achieved the highest marks in the combined MPA/LLB program, both at Dalhousie University.

Do you know of someone who has made a unique and outstanding contribution to public administration in the federal, provincial, municipal or academic spheres? Then why not consider nominating them for the 2005 Awards of Excellence. The nomination package should include a covering letter, resume, reasons for the nomination, statements supporting the nomination from at least three references and supporting documentation, as appropriate (newspaper articles, citations, etc.)

The deadline is March 4, 2005. Nominations should be sent to Mary Belliveau, PO Box 697, Halifax, NS, B3J 2T8, or via email at bellivma@gov.ns.ca, fax 424-0648

WELCOME

The following new members have recently joined IPAC:

Joseph Arbour, Bedford Institute of Oceanography

Garth Bangay, Environment Canada

Paul Brown, Dalhousie School of Public Administration

Ingrid Brodie, NS Dept of Justice

Louise Fontaine, L’Universite Ste. Anne

Bob Kanygin, Capital Health

Nancy MacCready-Williams, Workers Compensation Board

Frances Maritin, NS Treasury and Policy Board

Olga Massicotte, Health Canada

Terry Mills, NS Transportation and Public Works

Gary Porter, NS Community Services

Jerry Ryan, Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Geoff Wilson, Capital Health

Judith Wood-Bayne, Health Canada

Student Members

Robert Ashley, Melissa Doiron, Nicholas Kulyk, Charles

Gouthro, David Melvin, Joshua Sugivama, Mathew Yaworski

NS Regional Group Update

- Nova Scotia Regional Group Update is a member service of IPAC NS. Send comments or suggestion to Norma MacIsaac, Vice-Chair Membership at macisanj@gov.ns.ca
- Interested in joining IPAC? Contact Norma for a brochure or join up on online at www.ipac.ca
- Bookmark www.ipac.ca to get the latest news on IPAC’s activities nationally and in other regions.